

April 15, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians of Team Typhoon 7th graders:

For the next several weeks, Team Typhoon students will be researching, writing and typing a report for Language Arts and Social Studies classes. Students will be learning how to complete the following parts of the research paper:

- ✓ Choose and narrow a topic
- ✓ Support a thesis statement with detailed information
- ✓ Use a graphic organizer (research organizer) to create an outline for the paper
- ✓ Take notes without plagiarizing
- ✓ Use and create note cards and bib cards to organize sources and information.
- ✓ Paraphrase when they want to use another author's ideas
- ✓ Correctly write a citation for each source on a properly-formatted Works Cited Page
- ✓ Incorporate direct quotes into their writing with properly-formatted parenthetical citations
- ✓ Type a report using the correct MLA format
- ✓ Learn to manage their time effectively.

Each student will select a topic of focus that will center around an era studied in Social Studies class: the Greek Empire, Roman Empire, Middle Ages or the Renaissance Period. With consideration for these time periods, students will also select to focus on either:

I. Person: (a list of 26+ names of people to choose from were provided)

II. Place: Sparta, Rome, Constantinople or Athens

III. Era: Golden Age of Rome, The Fall of Rome, Renaissance or Dominance of Athens

Students will have at least four days in the Media Center or computer lab to find resources, read information and take notes about their topic choice. We will be guiding them through this process and have provided them with a "Research Organizer" to help them keep organized. We will also be providing students with a two-pocket, bradded folder where they should keep all teacher-provided handouts, examples and rubrics such as this one, as well as all their graded Research work and notecards. Additionally, we will be providing students with the required amount of notecards to assist with one of the objectives of this assignment.

Students will have a lot of class time to work on this report, but you should see them working on it at home as well. The final paper is projected to have the due date of **Wednesday, May 15th**. It will be worth approximately 150 points in total—and will count towards their Social Studies grade as well as their Language Arts grade. Mr. Warders will *mainly* lead instruction as related to content-area questions and Mrs. Tolin will *mainly* direct the instruction for editing with regard to sentence-structure, grammar and punctuation. Both teacher, however, will assist and monitor organization, formatting, and using support for ideas in writing. We have set up a timeline and a calendar for this project so that students will not feel too overwhelmed or rushed at anytime. Since it will be a major part of their grade in this final quarter of the school year, we wanted to communicate with you about it. Please confirm that you have received and read the information by signing the bottom portion of this letter. (It should be in the front page of your son/daughter's folder.)

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tolin and Mr. Warders

(Language Arts and Social Studies teachers)

I have read the above letter about the research report.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Child's Name